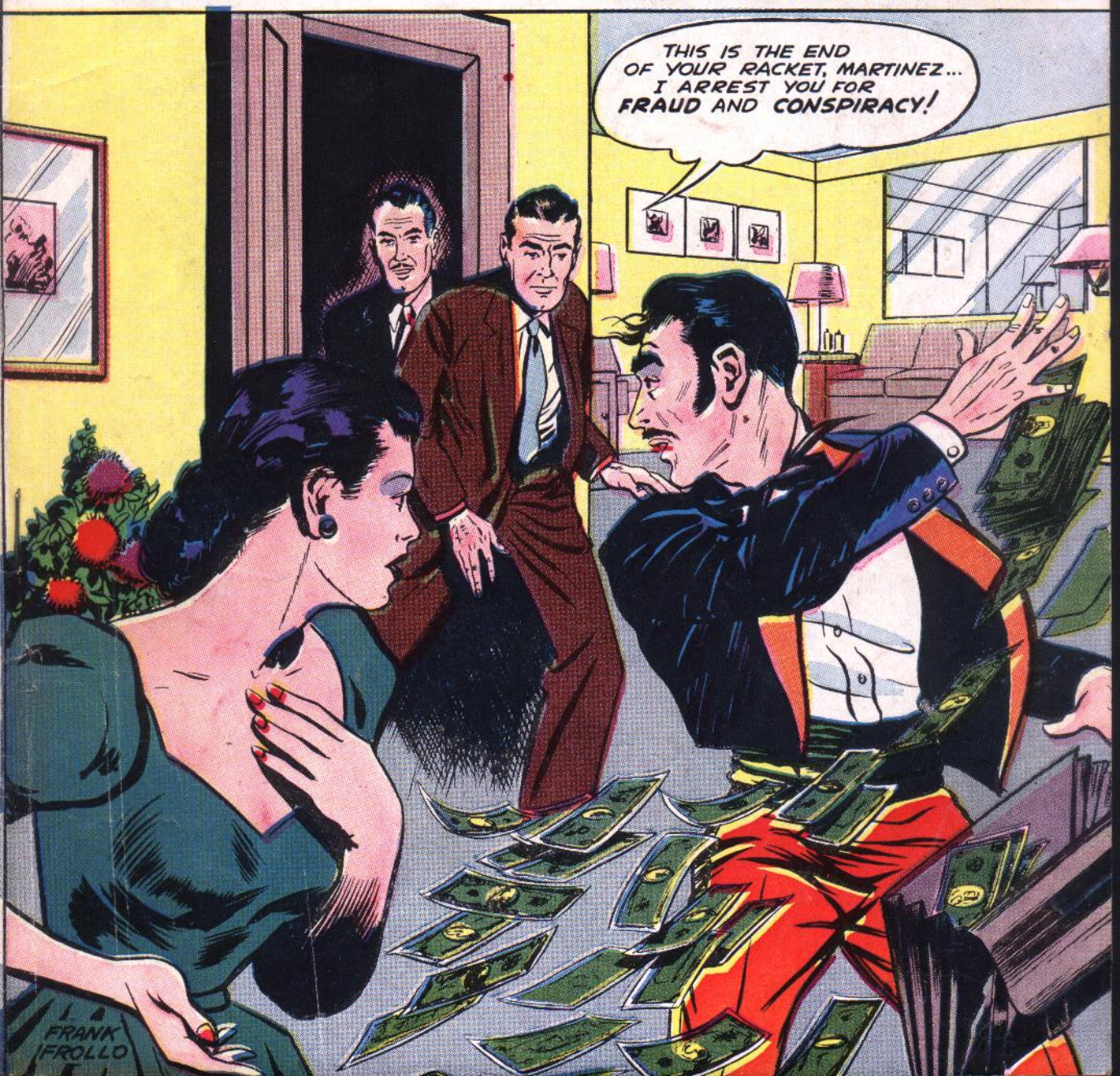
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

A LAW AND ORDER PUBLICATION

10¢ CDC NO. 4



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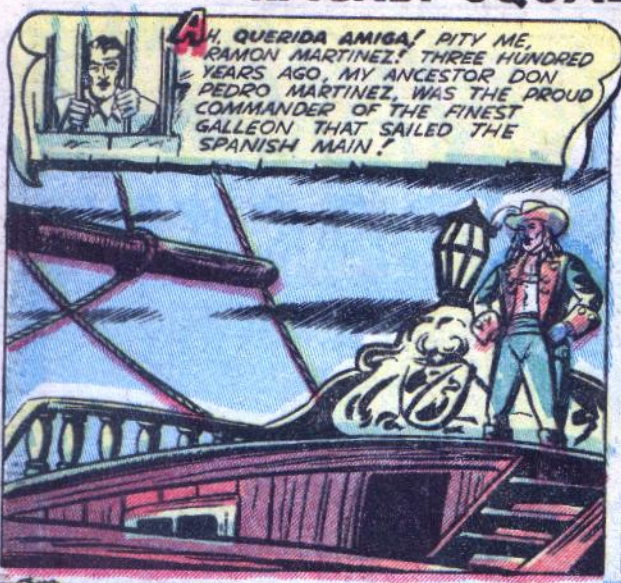
WATCH OUT FOR The SPANISH PRISON RACKET



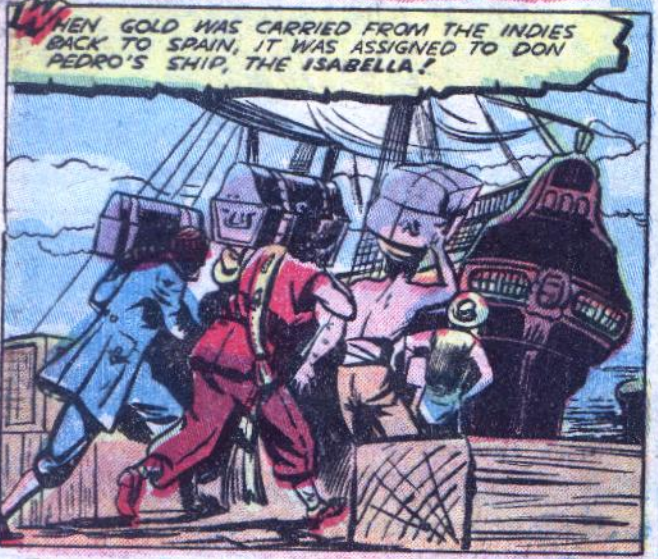




RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION













RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION









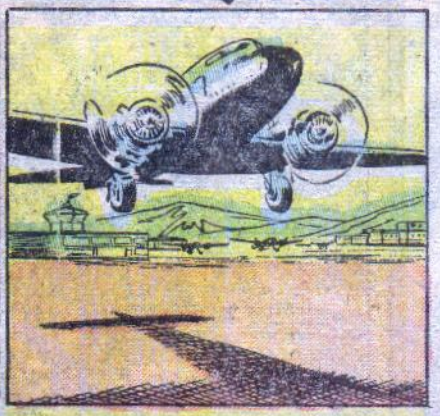






RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

MY CHOICE OF CARLOS PEREZ WAS PERFECT. HE WAS A PUERTO RICAN WHO SPOKE EXCELLENT SPANISH AND NO ONE WOULD CONNECT HIM WITH THE NEW YORK POLICE... SO CARLOS HOPPED TO CIUDAD DEL SOL...



AH, **SENOR!** WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU VISIT OUR PRESIDIO. BUT IT IS VERY SLEEPY HERE. DURING THE LAST REVOLUTION, WE HAD MANY PRISONERS...



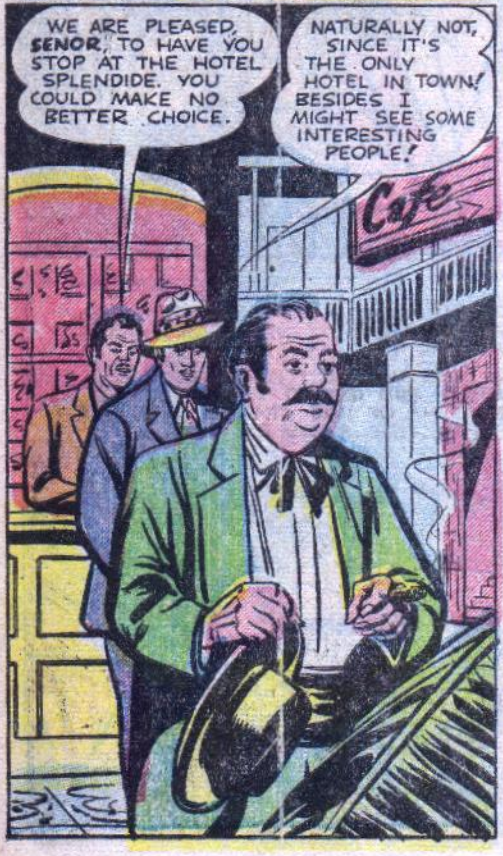
BUT NOW WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NONE! LOOK - THERE GOES OUR JAILER, JOSE. HE IS PRACTICALLY ON PENSION!

PRETTY PROSPEROUS, THIS JOSE, FOR A MAN ON PENSION!



WE ARE PLEASED, **SENOR**, TO HAVE YOU STOP AT THE HOTEL SPLENDIDE. YOU COULD MAKE NO BETTER CHOICE.

NATURALLY NOT, SINCE IT'S THE ONLY HOTEL IN TOWN! BESIDES I MIGHT SEE SOME INTERESTING PEOPLE!



SI **SENOR**. THAT IS DON RAMON MARTINEZ, ONE OF OUR VERY SPECIAL GUESTS. HE EVEN HAS JOSE THE JAILER BRING HIM HIS MAIL FROM THE POST-OFFICE. *IMAGINE!*



NO, I **CAN'T** IMAGINE IT... BUT I CAN **SEE** PLENTY! THE QUICKER I GET BACK TO NEW YORK, THE BETTER!



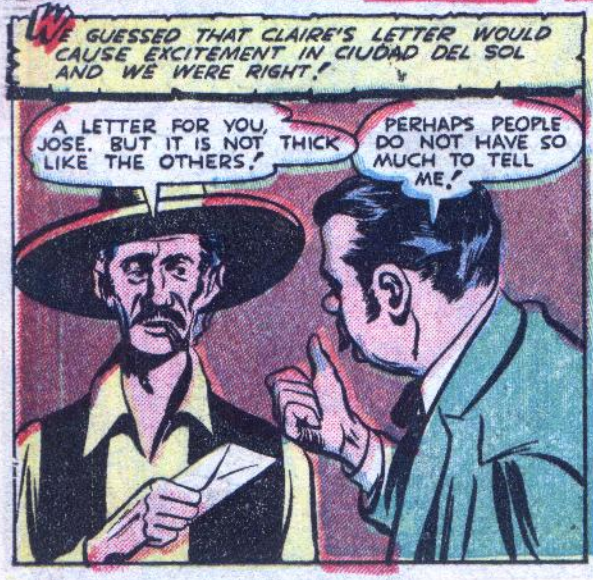
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

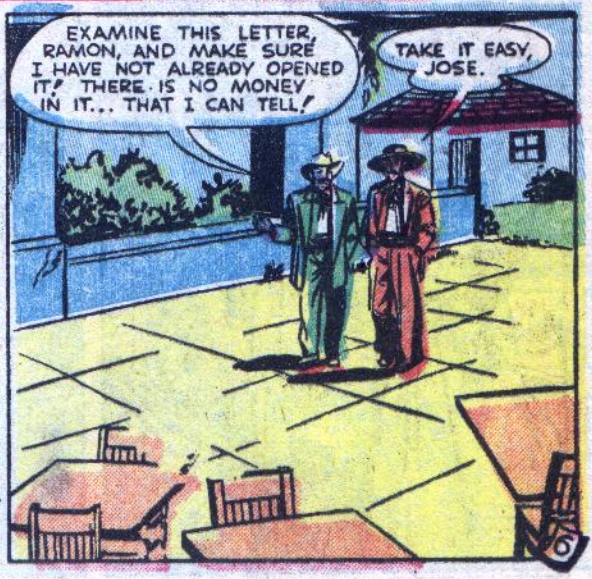












RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION













RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION













RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

GAMBLERS NEVER GAMBLE!

THEY JUST PUT THE GAME ON ICE WHEN THEY RING IN THE....

COLD DECK

I'M SIDNEY RADNER OF HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS. I GIVE LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS EXPOSING CROOKED GAMBLERS FROM COAST TO COAST. THERE'S ONE RULE THAT ALWAYS APPLIES TO GAMBLING RACKETS, "THE BIGGER THEY COME, THE HARDER THEY FALL." BY THAT I MEAN JUST THIS. IT ISN'T IN THE CORNER CRAP-GAME OR THE BACK ROOM POKER SESSION WHERE YOU'RE LIKELY TO FIND THE SMART OPERATORS. YOU'LL FIND THEM AT THE FINEST RESORTS AND THE MOST EXCLUSIVE CLUBS... LET'S GO BACK TO THURSDAY, APRIL 6TH, 1950, IN A PRIVATE ROOM AT THE SWANK 40🎱 CLUB ON FIFTH AVENUE...

I'VE SHUFFLED, DEY. IT'S YOUR CUT.

ALL RIGHT, FREEL.

HOLD IT... HERE COME THE SANDWICHES AND DRINKS.

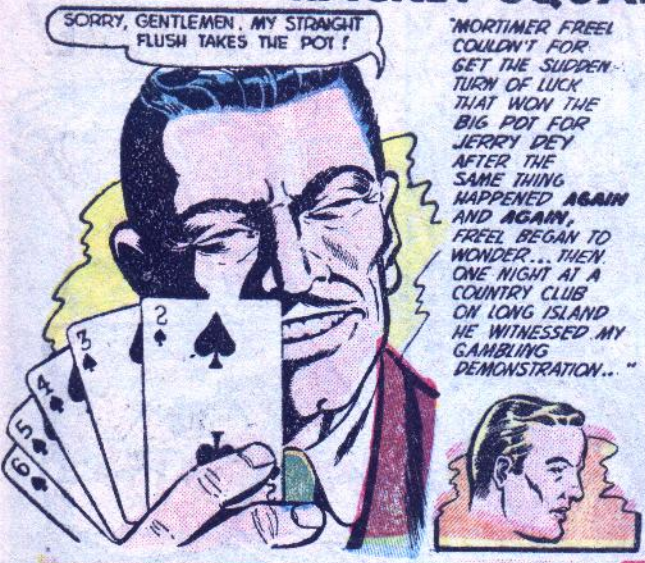
DICK GIORDANO

GO AHEAD, FREEL... IT'S YOUR DEAL! LET'S HOPE I HAVE SOME LUCK FOR A CHANGE!

FULL HOUSE... KINGS UP!

TOO BAD, FREEL. MY FOUR JACKS TOP THAT!

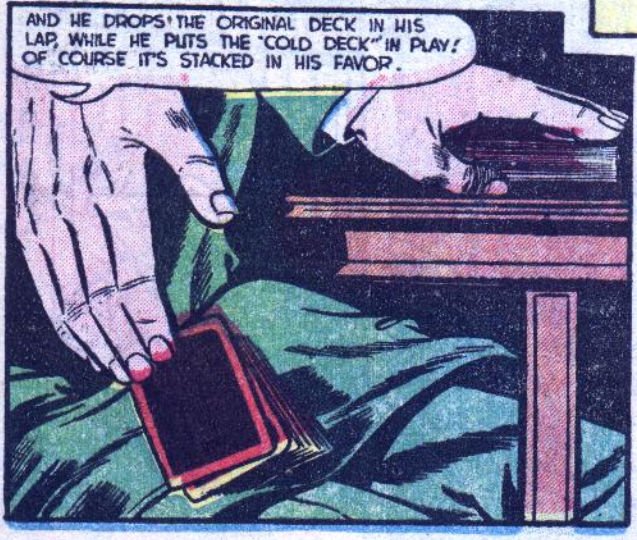
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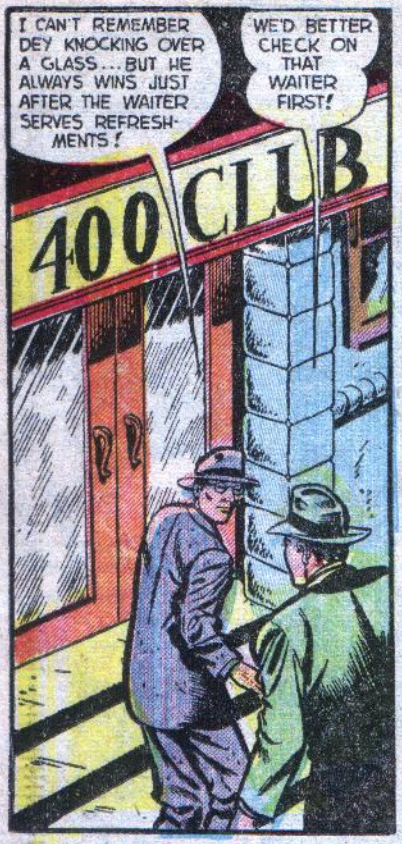


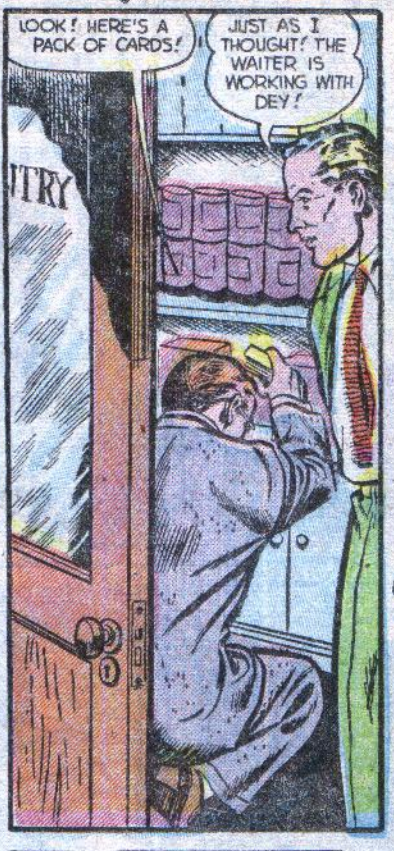






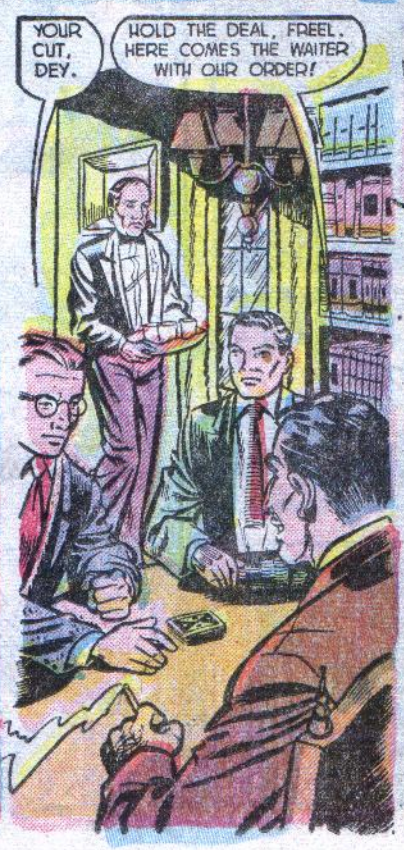
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RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION













THE BIG TIME BUILD-UP

Rackets generally fall into two categories: Penny ante deals and million dollar swindles.

In the first group we find carnival games where the "nickel gougers" and the "grifters" gyp their customers with "gaffed" devices that make it impossible for anyone to win. The same applies to many other petty rackets such as phoney lottery tickets and contests in which the winners are fixed beforehand.

The big time swindles of course include stock selling deals, oil wells that don't produce and any number of huge projects that attract suckers chiefly because of their magnitude. These take a lot of backing to put across.

Occasionally, a clever gyp artist will parley a small-time grift into a big time racket. A case in point is the numbers game which began as a local or neighborhood proposition and later grew to a national scale. But the really remarkable situation arrives when a million dollar front is used to put across a petty swindle.

One such swindle is the "Carbon Paper" dodge.

It begins in a used car dealer's office, where a man with an Australian accent makes his entrance, cheerily announces that he is from "Down Under" and in the market for American automobiles. He talks blandly of customs duties, getting money out of Australia and all the rest of it. But the wind up is that he can pay the dealer's price for certain makes of cars much wanted and needed in Australia.

He picks some thirty cars, totalling approximately $40,000 and makes a comprehensive listing of same. Tonight, he states, he will wire his Canadian office for authority to buy, rather than wait for word from Australia. However, it may take two or three days for confirmation.

By this time, the buyer is on very friendly terms with the used car dealer and why not? So when the Australian glances at his watch and begins wondering when the post office closes, his new friend naturally inquires the reason.

It turns out to be a mixup over some carbon paper. The Australian had ordered a lot from England, intending it to be shipped directly to Melbourne, but instead it was sent here to Boston, Massachusetts, where he is at present. It's a bit involved, you know, some duty to be paid and all that. A mere fifty dollars worth of very fine carbon paper, but what use is it here?

The annoyance of reshipment to Australia or even returning it to England is quite a problem in itself. By this time, if an idea hasn't struck the used car dealer, the Australian gets it on his own. He looks about the office and exclaims:

"Why, you must use a lot of carbon paper here! I should be glad to let you have the whole quantity at cost. Why not send someone with me right now to pick it up?"

Someone is sent with the fifty dollars. The messenger returns with the carbon paper. It turns out to be a job lot that was probably bought for ten dollars, though it is actually carbon, which is about all that the so-called Australian represented it to be. But after all, what does it matter while a deal for $40,000 is pending?

That's how the deal stays — pending. Actually, the real amount at stake was forty dollars, which the pretended Australian took for himself. He never comes back to close the big deal on used cars for export. Instead, he keeps going the rounds of other businesses. He prices a lot of billiard tables, he negotiates for a quantity of electric refrigerators, he talks to book publishers, typewriter companies, day by day.

Always, he remembers that package of unclaimed carbon paper at the post office. Sometimes it's at his hotel or in a locker at the railroad station. In any case, he sells such a package to each of the firms with which he has talked big figures on an export deal. At forty dollars a clip, he makes him-

self a rather nice total before he leaves Boston to work the same gyp on companies in Providence, Rhode Island.

This game with variations, has been an old favorite year in and year out, but it doesn't bring the fast results that some operators prefer, nor does it wear too well, once people generally begin to avoid buying carbon paper except from regular supply houses. The con man who likes to put up the big front is generally an opportunist, who is all the happier, the more lavish his pose.

His heydey was during the days of Prohibition, when he could pose as the son of a Scotch whiskey distiller, though his victims usually wound up referring to him in less complimentary terms. The distillery racket worked out much like this:

Into some seaboard city such as Philadelphia or Baltimore came a personable young man who called at a large department store and spread out the plan of a very fine looking yacht.

This he said, was his own private yacht. It needed repairs so he was having the yacht brought here from Bermuda, rather than attempt the long cruise back to Glasgow. It would be a good idea, he had decided, to have the yacht redecorated at the same time.

The upshot was that the young man ordered a large quantity of fine furniture and other decorations. Some of his conferences on the subject were held in his hotel suite, where he served some of the Scotch whiskey which his father manufactured. How he had brought in the Scotch during Prohibition was a subject that he at first avoided. Finally, however, he let it out.

The crew of the yacht, he said, had ways of their own for getting the stuff ashore. Not that he would be party to it, indeed no. But when his yacht arrived from Bermuda, he was quite sure that any number of cases of Scotch could be delivered to local purchasers who furnished the money in advance, so that it could be sent to certain members of the yacht's crew.

This spiel could only bring one result. The department store men insisted on handing over substantial sums of cash to the distiller's son. Not only they, but their friends did the same. The pool got bigger and bigger all in anticipation of the yacht's arrival. When it totalled a few thousand dollars, the distiller's son decamped, usually leaving an unpaid hotel bill. The yacht never did show up with its cargo of Scotch because the impostor wasn't the distiller's son. In fact the distiller didn't have a son and if he had, he wouldn't have given him a yacht.

Today, such opportunists operate differently, since they no longer have Prohibition to help them. One timely case occurred in San Francisco a few years ago. There, a large cargo steamer was put up for sale at a price of around $600,000 and a young man promptly flew in by plane from Seattle to make the purchase.

He had some plan for coastal trade that sounded very feasible, considering that he had inherited a few million dollars from an uncle in the lumber business. All he needed was a ship and this was it. So he made out a check for $600,000 and the deal was closed therewith.

His one trouble now was to get a hotel room, having hopped the plane in such a hurry. So the head man of the steamship line arranged for a suite in one of San Fransico's best hotels. As soon as he was established there, the young man from Seattle went to some of the largest clothing stores in town and bought himself new suits, shirts, shoes and all that went with it.

He had no trouble running up a charge when he gave his address as the swank hotel but when his bills reached sizeable proportions, as they did within a few days, the stores wanted better references.

What better could there be than his own steamship? The young man invited some of the store departments heads down to the ship, where he was piped on board as the owner and a large party thrown at the expense of the line that had sold him the vessel at such a tidy profit.

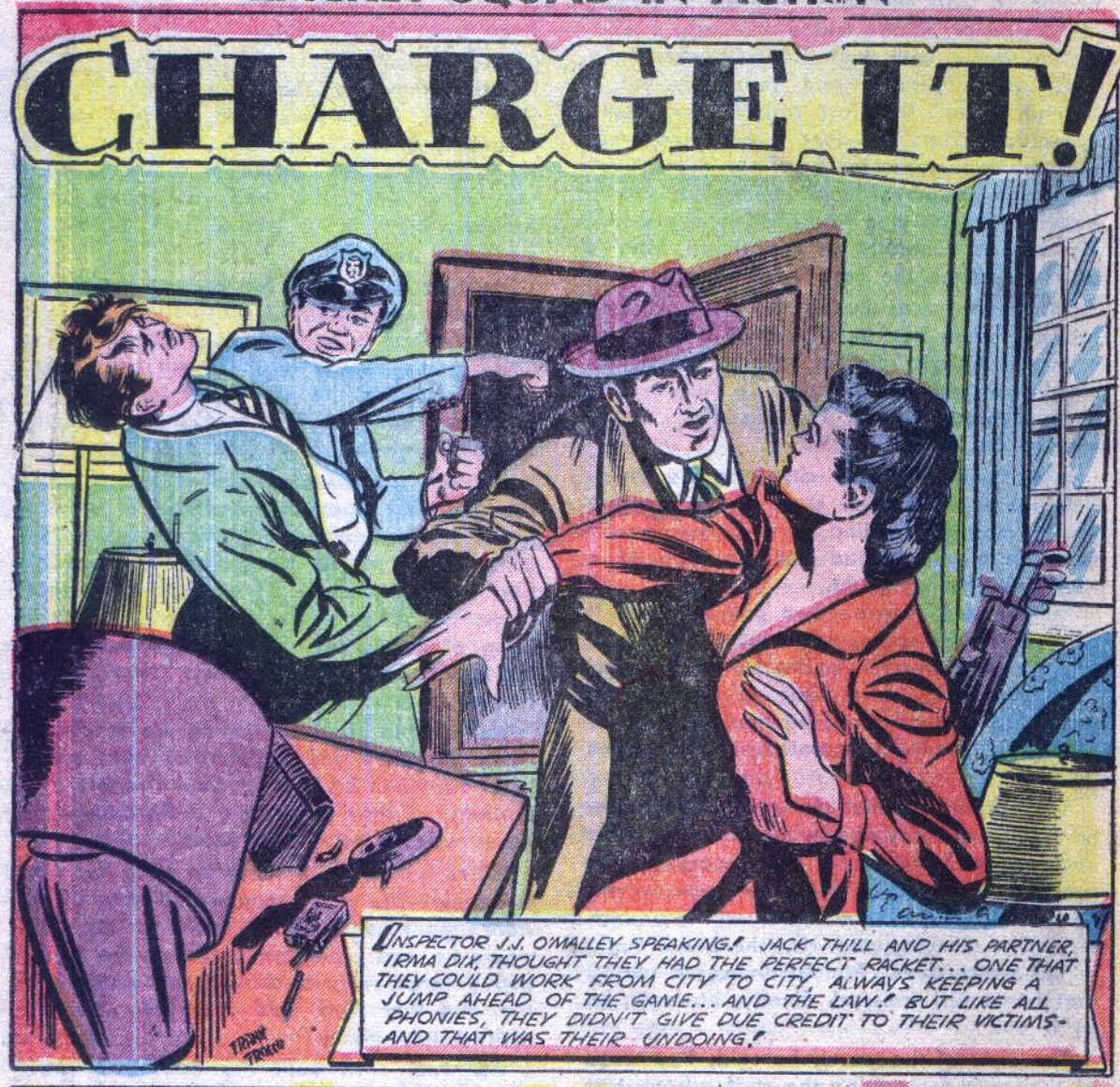
All went well until the $600,000 check reached the Seattle clearing house. There it was discovered that there wasn't any such account. The steamship line hadn't anticipated this with a check of such size, particularly as they still had their ship. In brief, the check didn't clear Seattle.

But by then the young man had cleared San Francisco, along with his new wardrobe and a lot of fancy suit cases that he had bought for travel. Naturally, he'd paid for all this with checks on the same bank in Seattle. He had used that non-existent account to cover his hotel bill as well.

So watch out for the big time swindler who plays for small time stakes. The bigger they come, the phonier they are — sometimes.

The End

CHARGE IT!


INSPECTOR J.J. O'MALLEY SPEAKING! JACK THILL AND HIS PARTNER, IRMA DIX, THOUGHT THEY HAD THE PERFECT RACKET... ONE THAT THEY COULD WORK FROM CITY TO CITY, ALWAYS KEEPING A JUMP AHEAD OF THE GAME... AND THE LAW! BUT LIKE ALL PHONIES, THEY DIDN'T GIVE DUE CREDIT TO THEIR VICTIMS- AND THAT WAS THEIR UNDOING!


SO THIS IS STACY'S! I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT IT.
NOW YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK ABOUT THE PLACE AND MAKE YOURSELF FAMILIAR WITH IT.


HERE ARE THE NAMES YOU'RE TO USE. EVERY ONE IS A SUPER-DE LUXE CUSTOMER. BUT REMEMBER- DON'T USE MORE THAN ONE IN THE SAME DEPARTMENT!
ROSSLYN... BEVERLY... TAUNTON... MY, THEY'RE RITZY!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION









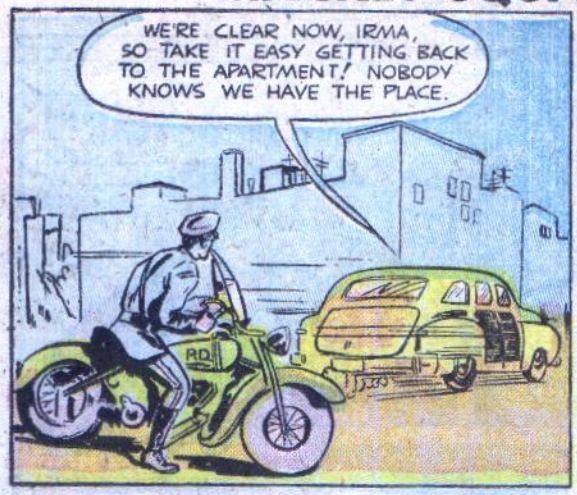


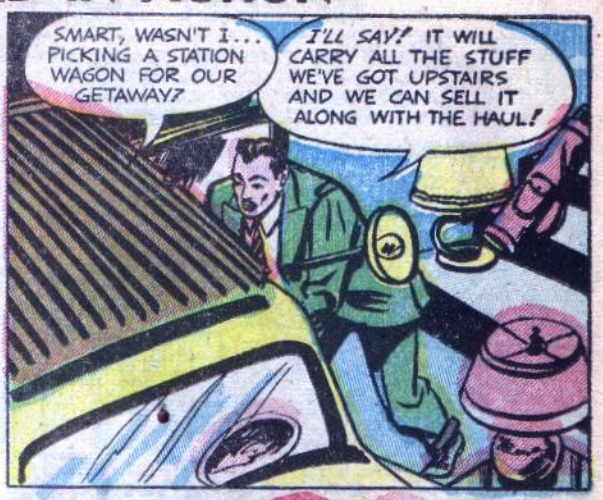


RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION














DR. NEFF THE ORIGINAL GHOST BREAKER
DEBUNKS THE
SPIRIT PHOTO RACKET
OF ALL RACKETS, THOSE OPERATED BY "SPOOK SWINDLERS" ARE THE MEANEST, BECAUSE THEY USE THE NAMES AND MEMORIES OF THE DEAD TO PREY UPON THE LIVING... THE WAYS AND MEANS OF THESE FAKERS ARE MANY, BUT HERE IS A CASE THAT STANDS OUT AS UNIQUE... I CALL IT - "THE HAUNTING OF HARGRAVE HALL" - AND LIKE MANY SUCH CASES, IT WAS HATCHED IN THE DARK OF THE MOON...
THAT OLD HOUSE GIVES YOU THE CREEPS JUST TO LOOK AT IT, PETE! NO WONDER OLD LADY HARGRAVE EXPECTS HER HUSBAND'S GHOST TO SHOW UP THERE!
SHE'LL DO MORE THAN EXPECT IT... SHE'LL PAY FOR IT, IF SKEET BRINGS BACK THE DATA WE NEED! LOOK! SKEET IS BLINKING THE LIGHT! HE'S IN TITUS HARGRAVE'S STUDY!
FRANK FRANCIS
OHHHHH!!!
HEAR THAT, BETH? IT'S FROM MY POOR LAMENTED HUSBAND'S STUDY!
CRASH!
IT MUST BE A PROWLER, AUNTIE! I'LL CALL THE SERVANTS!

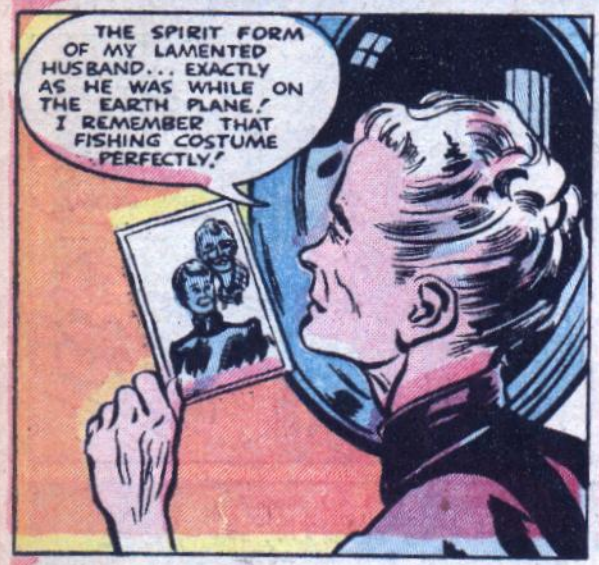
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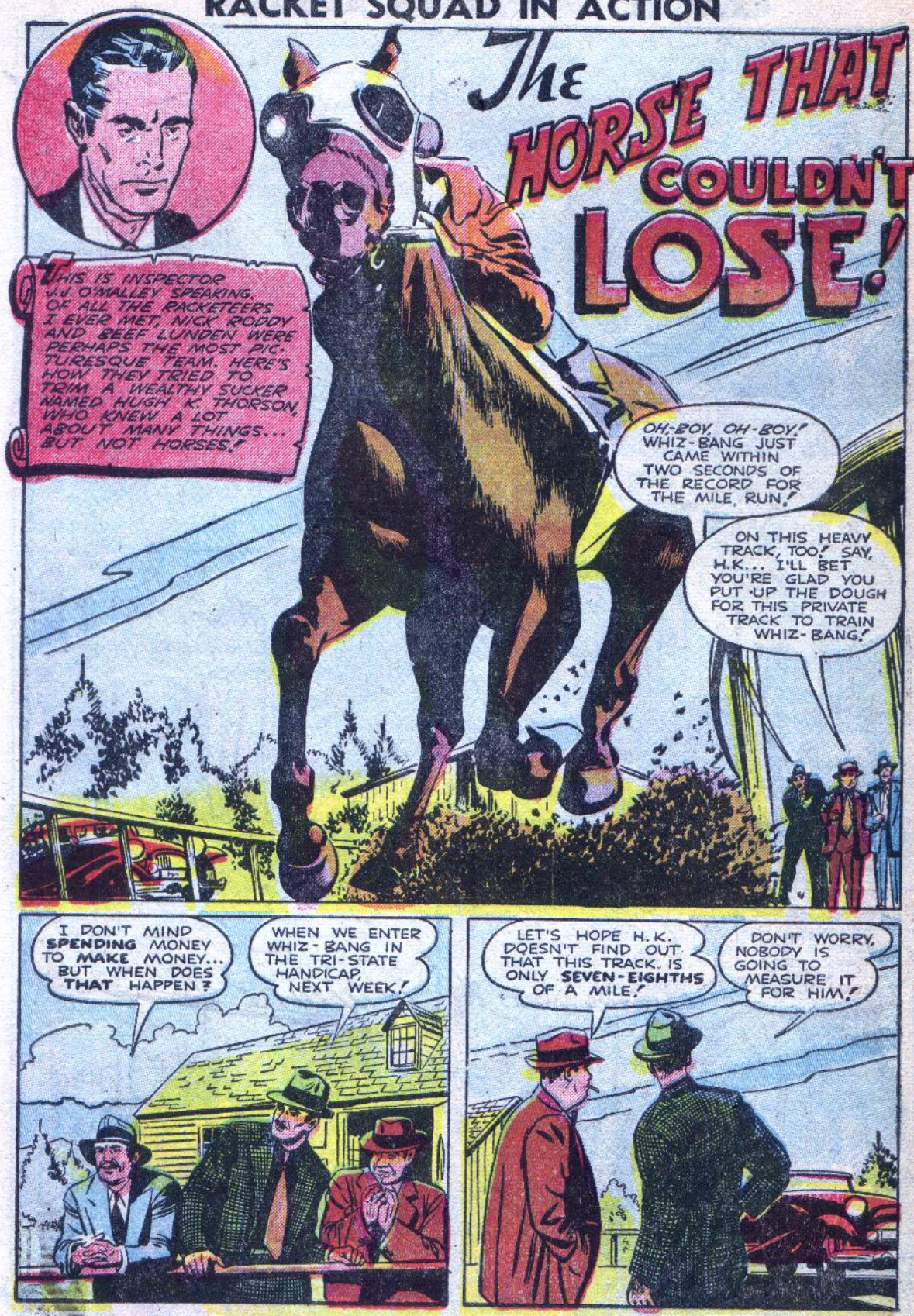


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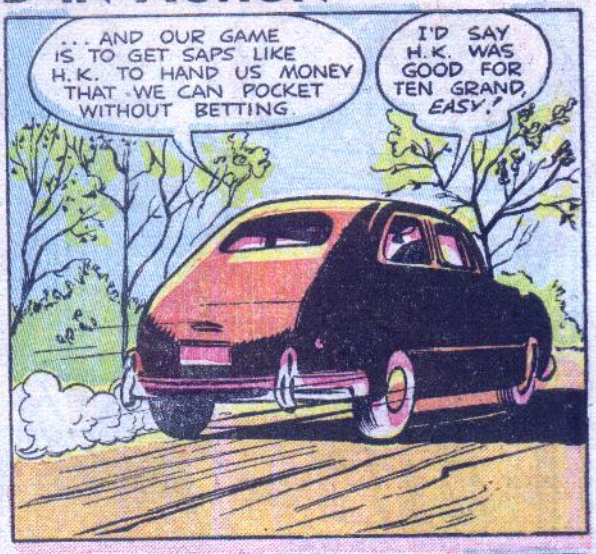
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION




The HORSE THAT COULDN'T LOSE!
THIS IS INSPECTOR J.J. O'MALLEY SPEAKING. OF ALL THE RACKETEERS I EVER MET, NICK RODDY AND BEEF LUNDEN WERE PERHAPS THE MOST PICTURESQUE TEAM. HERE'S HOW THEY TRIED TO TRIM A WEALTHY SUCKER NAMED HUGH K. THORSON, WHO KNEW A LOT ABOUT MANY THINGS... BUT NOT HORSES!
OH-BOY, OH-BOY! WHIZ-BANG JUST CAME WITHIN TWO SECONDS OF THE RECORD FOR THE MILE RUN!
ON THIS HEAVY TRACK, TOO! SAY, H.K... I'LL BET YOU'RE GLAD YOU PUT UP THE DOUGH FOR THIS PRIVATE TRACK TO TRAIN WHIZ-BANG!
I DON'T MIND SPENDING MONEY TO MAKE MONEY... BUT WHEN DOES THAT HAPPEN?
WHEN WE ENTER WHIZ-BANG IN THE TRI-STATE HANDICAP, NEXT WEEK!
LET'S HOPE H.K. DOESN'T FIND OUT THAT THIS TRACK IS ONLY SEVEN-EIGHTHS OF A MILE!
DON'T WORRY. NOBODY IS GOING TO MEASURE IT FOR HIM!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION













RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

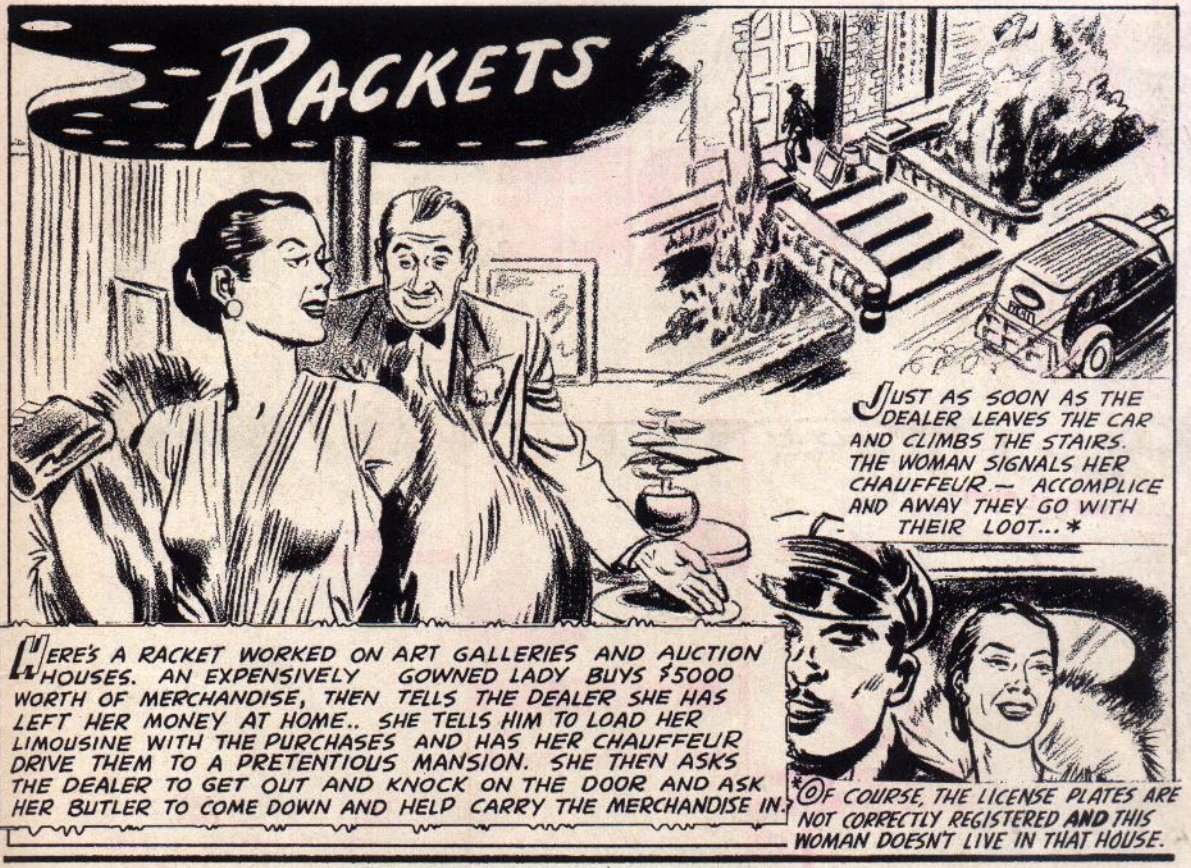


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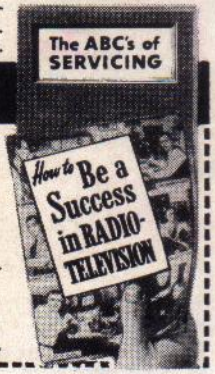
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